

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH AUGUST 2022

COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET
(Created by Earl Walker)

1970's



CHURCH EXTERIOR



FR. FREITAS & BOY'S CHOIR

ST JOHN VIANNEY PARISH CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John Vianney Parish celebrated its tenth Anniversary in a simple, significant service in Enchanted Lake, Kailua. Located at 920 Keolu Drive, midway between the Enchanted Lake and Keolu Hills, the church is situated on four acres. Besides the church, the parish compound includes an eight-grade school, convent, rectory, parish center and CCD offices.

In ten years the parish has been one of the fastest growing in the Islands. Starting with 600 families, the congregation has doubled to 1200 families in ten years. This had been greatly due to the continuous building projects in the area. St. John Vianney parish serves the Kailua areas of Enchanted Lakes, Keolu Hills, Colony Heights, Olomana, Pohakupu, part of Bishop Tract and the new Kaopa and Kukilakila areas. Young families and a youthful, zestful spirit have dominated the parish from its beginning.

Founded at the beginning of Vatican II, the parish reflected the renewed spirit of the Church and the people of God. The parish was highly active and leading in many of the renewal movements such as Cursillo, Marriage Encounter and the Charismatic Renewal.

The first pastor of St. John Vianney, Fr. John Read, remained the pastor until 1976. By that time the entire area had become enlarged with much development on the surrounding hills. Upon Fr. Read experiencing significant health problems, Fr. Patrick Freitas, the first Associate Pastor, who had left in 1967 returned in 1975. Fr. Freitas found St. John Vianney parish an energetic community that included an active Parish Council, a viable Ladies Sodality and a strong and determined school board. A year later in 1976, Fr. Patrick became the parish's second pastor and remained its pastor for the next three years. Fr. Nathan Mamo, who had been appointed associate pastor to St. John Vianney parish in 1978, became the Administrator in 1979, then the third pastor of the parish in 1981 and remained its pastor until 1991. Associate pastors during this decade were Rev. Bartholomew O'Leary, Rev. Gary Colton, Rev. Dan McNichol, Rev. James Drew, Rev. Benito Afuang, Rev. Donald Cavey, Rev. Frederick Nies and Rev. Charles Lees.

Sunday services at the parish included a Saturday evening Mass at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday Masses at 6:45, 8:00, 10:00, 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



NEW SJV STATUE BLESSED

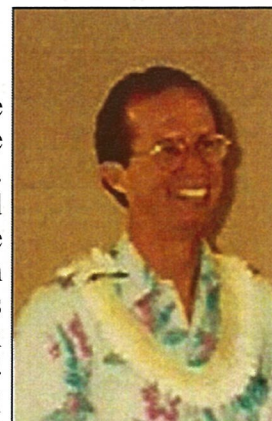
In February, 1978, a rare five-foot, hand-carved statue of Saint John Vianney arrived from Italy, just in time for the church's 15th anniversary. Made of natural Linden wood with colorful highlights, it was the first St. John Vianney statue to grace the Kailua Church. The statue was a gift from parishioner Paula Abbott in memory of her late husband, Agatin Abbott. The statue was blessed by Fr. John Read in a special ceremony after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 19, 1978. It was positioned in a place of honor within the church.

THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

The most observable energy in the parish during the 70's was the Charismatic Renewal which was energized by Bob Linczer, Dave Sklorenko, Whit Au, Pat Cooper, Jack Busekrus, and Tom Fragas. Catholics and non-Catholics met and filled SJV with prayer, singing, and teaching. It was not uncommon to have a nearly full church for prayer meetings and healing services every Friday night. People came from Honolulu to take part in the services and guest speakers came from the Mainland. A priest at Loyola University in Los Angeles spoke about the lively group of Charismatic people who were shaping Catholicism, not just in the Islands but on the mainland. SJV was becoming known for its Charismatic renewal movement. Fr. Patrick's idea was to give this sudden growth some direction and to distinguish between what was Catholic and what wasn't. To help integrate the movement more deeply in our rich Catholic tradition and within our parish, and to maintain harmony and mutual understanding, Fr. Freitas invited Fr. Benito Afuang, a Benedictine priest from the charismatic Pecos, NM Monastery to be their parish chaplain. As it turned out, Fr. Benito Afuang became a well-respected, trusted, and integral member of the parish staff from 1976-78.

FIRST PRIEST ORDAINED AT SJV

One of the highlights of the parish during 1977 was the ordination of its first priest, Fr. Gary Secor, son of Donald and Alice Secor, on August 13, the ordination date of St. John Vianney. Father Gary Secor was born on April 16, 1951 in Berkeley California. At about 4 months old, he came to Hawaii with his parents and was raised on the Windward side of Oahu.



GARY SECOR

He attended St. Anthony's Grade School and Maryknoll High School. He was SJV's first altar boy serving under Fr. Read. He attended St. Stephen's Seminary and graduated from Chaminade College in 1973. He attended St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park California and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Honolulu on August 13, 1977.

He is currently the Vicar General of the Diocese of Honolulu.

CHANGES TO THE LITURGY

The Vatican II spirit of renewal was alive and well during the 1970's. The initial renewal of liturgy had just begun and received major attention at St. John Vianney. There was the introduction of English, the altar facing the community, Communion in the hand, the guitar and singing groups and the call for the assembly to participate in singing. Mrs. Ellie Lum was at the organ conducting rehearsals before Mass with gentle to sometimes challenging reminders to "sing!"



This also was the time when new liturgical music was being developed and integrated more carefully into the design of liturgy. Thanks to his hard work and determination, Father Pat Freitas envisioned the beauty and the power of a singing and celebrating assembly. With the help of Bernadine Zimbra, a gifted musician and vocalist, a Sunday choir was organized as well as a consistent music program for all the Masses.

During the 70's Fr. Mamo met Robert Mondoy and said to him, "Robert when you conclude your music work in San Francisco, know that you have a job here at St. John's." As it happened, one year after Fr. Mamo came to the parish, Robert joined St. John Vianney as its music minister. Fr. Mamo definitely had a hand in promoting the marvelous gift that Robert has been to the parish and diocese.



FR. PAT FREITAS

SJV PASTOR

Fr. Patrick Freitas was the pastor of St. John Vianney Parish from 1976 to 1979. Shortly after his ordination, Bishop Sweeney appointed him as Associate Pastor, the first for the parish, in July 1965. Most of the work his first year was in the area of religious education. He departed the parish, after two years, with a new assignment to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City in June 1967. He returned in July 1975, serving as an associate pastor together with Fr. Jim Drew. Alice Secor was the parish secretary. Fr. Freitas felt that the three main priorities of the parish administration were: liturgical prayer, lay participation and leadership, and religious education.

A year later in 1976, when Fr. Read retired, Fr. Freitas became the second pastor of the parish and remained for the next three years. He departed the parish in 1979 knowing well that the parish would be in the good hands of Fr. Nathan Mamo who followed him.

BISHOP OF HONOLULU



BISHOP SCANLAN

Throughout the decade, the Bishop of Honolulu was John Scanlan. Pope Paul VI had appointed him apostolic administrator of the diocese in 1967 when illness forced Bishop Sweeney to retire. Upon Bishop Sweeney's death the next year, Bishop Scanlan was named the second Bishop of Honolulu. As Bishop, he created four new parishes in Hawaii and built nine churches. He welcomed

Hawaii's increasingly diversified ethnic mix by establishing Masses in different parishes in Korean, Filipino, and Vietnamese, and also helped to establish a Samoan Catholic Council. Bishop Scanlan was responsible for inviting nine new religious communities to serve in the diocese in schools, hospitals, outreach, and the contemplative life. In 1970 Bishop Scanlan ordained Fr. B. J. O'Leary who was assigned to SJV as an assistant pastor under Fr. Read. In 1978 Bishop Scanlan also ordained Bishop Joseph A. Ferrario as his auxiliary bishop, who later became Hawaii's third bishop.

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS IN THE 1970'S

- Sister Carletta 1971 – 1972
- Sister Greta 1973 – 1975
- Sister Nancy 1976 – 1977
- Mr. Gerard Joseph 1978 - 1982



SISTER NANCY

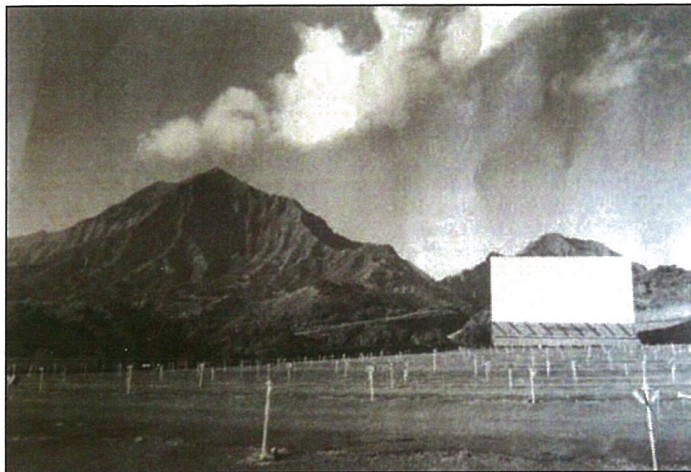
St. John Vianney parish included a parish school, under the direction of Franciscan Sister Carletta (71-72), Sister Greta (73-75) and Sister Nancy (76-77). St. John Vianney School had been most successful through these years and had developed a full grammar school program for grades one through eight, along with religious education and youth programs.

In the fall of 1977, the Franciscan Sisters of Charity were forced to relinquish one of their three Hawaii schools. Their choice was between the Cathedral School and St. John Vianney on Oahu. Bishop Scanlan chose St. John Vianney based on the parish's ability to respond to the challenge. To aid in the transition, the Sisters were willing to send a religious educator to develop and strengthen the program of religious studies both in the school and the parish.

Sr. Nancy Kinate, as Principal, prepared the school community and strengthened the curriculum, the school policies, and the school board. At the conclusion of the school year (78-79), after 12 years of rich service to our parish, we bade the sisters farewell. The departure of the Sisters left us essentially with an empty convent. After some renovations during the summer, the convent was re-opened as a shared parish and school facility, which was named "The John B. Read Center". During the summer of '78 the first lay Principal, Mr. Gerard Joseph, was brought on board.



FIRST CLASS OF EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS



Life in Kailua was Good

Kailua in the 1970s was small-town living at its very best, Hawaiian style. Every Fourth of July, there was a parade right down the main street of town. It had marching bands, clowns, Boy Scouts, and a man on stilts dressed up like Uncle Sam. People sat on the grass by the side of the road and waved at their friends and neighbors as they passed by. In the evening, neighbors went to the beach and watched fireworks off Flat Island. Someone always made a big bonfire and the neighborhood kids toasted their marshmallows.

Kailua's downtown shopping complex had a Liberty House, a Longs, a Kress, and a hardware store that sold every hardware item ever invented. The Kalapawai General Store was a Hawai'i landmark. On lazy summer days, kids would go to the beach, make flower leis, or play baseball in the backyard. If they got bored, they would walk into town and get a book from the Kailua library.

For fine dining needs, there was Andy's Drive-In, Buzz's Steak House, and Pinky's Broiler. The Kailua Drive-In was in such a great location that if the movie was bad, one could just forget about it and look at the beautiful scenery instead. There were ice cream socials at the church and camp outs on the beach. Somebody always brought a guitar or an 'ukulele for a sing-along. Life in Kailua was good.



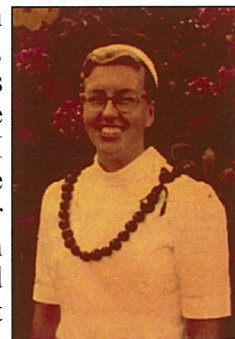
MORE MEMORIES

How fortunate we all were to have Fr. Freitas, a priest who was very knowledgeable about Vatican II and sensitive to the need of educating his people to the changes. I still remember with admiration his instructing the whole assembly in how to receive the Eucharist in our hands and from the cup. Each one of us had to go up the main aisle to the foot of the altar to practice extending our hands to Fr. Freitas. A careful and painstaking effort! Fr. Freitas also began involving the laity. One Sunday Mass he invited anyone who was interested in being a Eucharistic Minister to make an appointment for an interview with him. I eagerly turned to my husband and encouraged him to apply. I never thought of doing it myself, but thanks to the good shepherds in our parish, many women are playing a much bigger role in the Church. (Mary Hughes)



FR. PAT FREITAS

Sister Greta became Principal of the school in 1973 and I can remember her in her habit, wielding a cane knife with all of us in the drain channel. Since she was willing to do her part, I volunteered more time to the school. At one point, Bob Linczer and I became the experts in painting lines on the playground and the parking lot. We got someone to donate yellow traffic paint and we fashioned a template of sorts and borrowed a paint spray gun and compressor, Voila! We painted the 4 squares and basketball courts and eventually the lines on the parking lot for the church building. This made us the resident experts. (Deacon Walter Yoshimitsu)

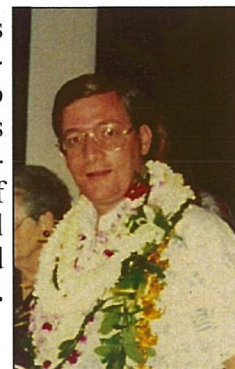


SISTER GRETA

The atmosphere at St. John Vianney has always been that of a large and rather gregarious family. To meals one needed only to bring an appetite; to parties, only a desire to be hospitable; to sicknesses and funerals, the desire to comfort; to joyful moments, a sense of congratulations and hope. In all circumstances, gratitude to God seemed to abound. (Fr. Nathan Mamo)

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FR. MAMO